

NATIONAL CAPITAL AFFAIRS

Farm Wages Rising Faster Than Factory Pay

WASHINGTON.—The money wages of farm labor increased about 2.5 per cent during the past year, and about 11 per cent during the past four years. Since 1902 the increase has been about 36 per cent. These estimates are based upon reports of correspondents of the bureau of statistics (agricultural forecasts) of the department of agriculture.

Wages of farm labor tended upward during the decade of the seventies; they were almost stationary during the eighties, and declined from 1892 to 1894, since which time they have steadily tended upward. Farm wages now, compared with wages during the eighties, are about 55 per cent higher; compared with the low year of 1894, wages are now about 67 per cent higher.

The current average rate of farm wages in the United States, when board is included, is, by the month, \$21.38; by the day, other than harvest, \$1.16; at harvest, \$1.57. When board is not included, the rate is, by the month, \$30.31; by the day, other than harvest, \$1.50; by the day, at harvest, \$1.94.

Wages in different sections of the United States vary widely, averaging highest in the far western states and lowest in the South Atlantic states. For instance, the monthly rate, without board, is \$56.50 in Nevada; \$54 in Montana, and \$51 in Utah; but \$17.90 in South Carolina, \$19.60 in Mississippi, and \$20.20 in Georgia. The highest state average, \$56.50, is thus seen to be 3.2 times higher than the lowest rate, \$17.90.

The money wages of farm labor have increased relatively more than wages for labor in city manufactures during the past 20 to 30 years. A comparison of the average of wages per employee in manufacturing industries, as reported by the censuses of 1910, 1900 and 1890, indicates that the wages of such employees increased 22 per cent in ten years (1900 to 1910), and increased only 23 per cent in the 20 years; the increases in farm labor wages were approximately 37 per cent in the ten years and about 55 per cent in the 20 years. This relative gain of rural upon urban wages acts automatically upon the movement from country to city.

Wages of farm labor have been increasing rapidly, not only in the United States, but in most, if not all, other countries of the world. In the central agricultural region of Russia the wage per day paid to male labor for the years 1901-1906 averaged 34 kopecks (17.5 cents) at sowing time, 50 kopecks (25.7 cents) at hay harvest and 54 kopecks (27.7 cents) at wheat harvest. By 1910 these wages had increased to 55 kopecks (27.8 cents), 73 kopecks (37.6 cents) and 87 kopecks (44.8 cents), respectively. In Hungary the wages of agricultural laborers increased about 60 per cent in the ten years from 1897 to 1907. In Denmark, from 1892 to 1905, wages of farm labor, with board, increased about 30 per cent, and without board 22 per cent. In Sweden wages of agricultural laborers increased 38 per cent in the ten years from 1898 to 1908. For Norway we have data showing the wages in country and in towns, wherein is shown that wages with board, increased 19 per cent in country and 15 per cent in towns during the ten years 1895 to 1905, thus showing a greater gain in country than in town wages. In Japan, where economic conditions have been changing rapidly, the yearly money wages of agricultural labor more than doubled in the 14 years from 1894 to 1908, and increased 43 per cent from 1898 to 1908.

Animals Run to Cover at Blast Warning Shout

"FIRE in the hole!" This shout of warning is well understood by employees of construction companies engaged in blasting work. It means there will be an explosion. Every man near by drops his pick or shovel and runs for shelter. Now, would you believe animals have learned the meaning of this warning? If you doubt it go out to the Zoological Gardens and see for yourself.

There a tunnel through solid rock, completely under the garden, is being made for the extension of a sewer through to Chevy Chase.

It has taken four months to cut 1,050 feet. Two shifts of men, each working eight hours, cut from 10 to 12 feet every 16 hours. The tunnel begins at the Rock creek loop of the Capital Traction railway lines and runs directly north. It is six feet wide and six and one-half feet high. Not a grain of dirt has been struck since the tunnel was started. Every inch has been through the toughest of blue granite.

Twelve men work in the day shift and 11 at night. At one point the tunnel is only 25 feet beneath the surface, but as it nears the center of the park it sinks to a depth of 185 feet.

Now back to the "fire in the hole" warning.

When a blast is ready the shout is given and the workmen rush out of the tunnel to safety. The ground rumbles and shakes. Sentinels at the mouth of the tunnel send along the warning by yelling "fire in the hole."

During the first few weeks of the work the animals paid little attention to the shout, but were frightened at the rumbling beneath them. Now they have learned the meaning of the cry.

The foxes, the prairie dogs, and the guinea pigs run to their holes; the lion roars his disapproval, the elephant gets in one corner of his house and stays there until the earth ceases to rumble; the beavers dive off in the water and hike to their caves beneath the banks, while the grizzly bear beats it for his tavern beneath a cliff of jagged rocks; the peacock struts a little, then trembles in fear; and the monkey clings in terror to the bars of his cage. The alligators and the snakes are not, for they sleep all winter and nothing disturbs them.

Are Squirrels Superior to Men as Engineers?

MAN is a mighty clever creature if he does say it himself, but when it comes to engineering he simply isn't in it with a squirrel. Here's the proof: In the good old summer time, etc., the Smithsonian grounds are so many acres of grass and trees and trees—and sparrows.

One day last winter the acres were white and deep and smooth, as if the weather man had sheeted and tucked them.

Across one stretch of sparkling crustiness which is a lawn underneath a squirrel kangarooed with such irresponsible activity that a kind-hearted government clerk who was homing from work paused to consider the cruelty of nature in leaving so helpless a creature to starve—not being able to eat snow like Gen. G. at Valley Forge.

But the squirrel wasn't caring. It just leaped over the glazed white until—with a sudden, decisive stop—it poked its nose in the snow and burrowed down until only the end of its tail showed above the hole.

Then it came to the surface with a nut between its teeth and kangarooed back to where it came from.

Oh, yes, dear man, you can dig Panama canals and root out tunnels, and harness a wilderness, and bridge canyons and rivers, and all that, but—

There isn't one of you on top of the earth, or under it, who can—or ever could—locate, first lick, a nut buried beneath a waste of snow without a guide of some sort to go by. That's what you couldn't!

And yet, some learned gentleman with sections of the alphabet tagged to his name is sitting off somewhere this very minute writing a book to prove that animals lack intelligence.

Honeymooners Enjoy Ride in Senate Tunnel Auto

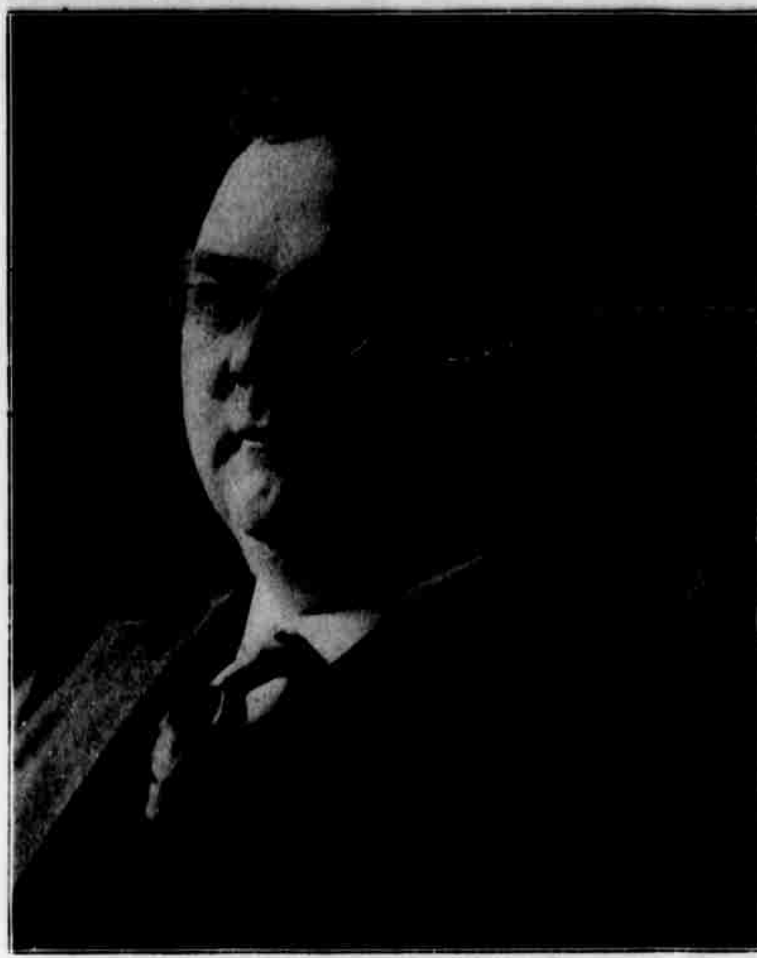
AUTOMOBILE honeymooning in the senate subway was inaugurated by a pair of newlyweds, with economy as their watchword and ingenuity as their guide, in a search for thrills. From the capitol to the senate office building runs a tunnel, equipped with automobiles for the transportation of senators. Young chauffeurs pilot the cars in this damp passageway, which boasts no scenery but long strings of incandescent lights.

Despite the romantic repulsion of the place, a gaily bedecked bride and her lord boarded one of the cars at the office building end of the tube and "cooned" as it spun along to the capitol landing.

"Capitol," said the chauffeur. "All out." The happy pair never moved.

"Let's ride back, George!" exclaimed the bride. "Isn't it thrilling?" Back they rode, and for half an hour they whirled back and forth, while the chauffeur smiled and senators chuckled.

"Wasn't it grand?" chirped the bride, as George dizzily helped her from the car after the fifteenth spin.



HARRY WOODS.
Secretary of State Who is Making a Big Fight for the Democratic Nomination for United States Senator.

THE SENATORSHIP

Harry Woods, secretary of State of Illinois, is making a red hot fight for the Democratic nomination for United States Senator. He has friends in every county and the phenomenal run that he made for Secretary of State cheers his friends. His managers publish returns of the primary election in 1912, showing that Woods received 54,766 votes in the counties outside of Cook to 24,959 votes for Dunne in the same counties. The figures also show that in the 101 counties outside of Cook Harry Woods received 54,766 votes to 28,134 for Barratt O'Hara and 18,174 for Frank D. Comerford, both of whom are senatorial aspirants at the present time.

Roger C. Sullivan is gaining in strength every day as a candidate for United States Senator. He is making a dignified, honorable canvass; is attacking nobody or throwing bricks at any other candidate. He relies upon his upright record to win, and his friends believe that he will land the prize by a big majority.

Senator Allen Bill Sherman of Illinois, whose successor will be elected next fall, has hit upon a dandy campaign issue, just suited to his style of patriotism. He opened his campaign and celebrated the first anniversary of his election to the Senate by introducing two bills, which, in effect, revive the provision of the "force" bills repealed by Congress in 1894. The measures provide for the appointment by judges of the federal courts of supervisors of elections of United States senators and members of Congress upon the petition of five voters in cities of more than 25,000 population, or by twenty voters in any congressional district.

The principal change in the old laws which the bills seek is on the qualification that the supervisors shall not act as peace officers unless specifically authorized by the courts.

In introducing the bills Senator Sherman made the following statement:

"I have introduced bills regulating the holding of elections for United States senators and representatives and delegates in the Congress of the United States by the federal government. The measures, which are related, in advancing the remedy intended, recognize the right of the United States to protect the election of its own officers by the people of the several states or districts. The purity of elections of senators and representatives and delegates in Congress is as vital to the government as it is to the states.

"The principle has been uniformly sustained by the federal courts, especially in several decisions of the Supreme court of the United States. The right, as well as the propriety, of giving to the United States power to protect itself against the corrupt choice of its representative officers cannot be challenged. All the returns that govern the corrupt practices acts apply with added force to the election of United States senators and representatives in Congress."

The lantern-jawed senator evidently regrets that the Civil War is over and that force bills are unpopular.

James C. McShane, Democratic candidate for the nomination for United States senator, will fire the opening gun in his campaign of five months Wednesday night, April 15.

This was the announcement sent out Monday by Mr. McShane's campaign bureau. The Third ward will be the scene of Mr. McShane's debut in the political arena. The first meeting will be in the Forum at Forty-third street and Grand boulevard.

According to Mr. McShane's plans, he will follow up the opening meeting with a whirlwind campaign of eight weeks, during which time he expects to speak in every section of Chicago.

"Not only do I intend to address the voters personally," said Mr. McShane, "but I intend to reach every registered voter in Chicago, Cook county and the state with literature of my own. My two months' campaign in Chicago alone will bring me in pretty close touch with the voters in every ward of the city."

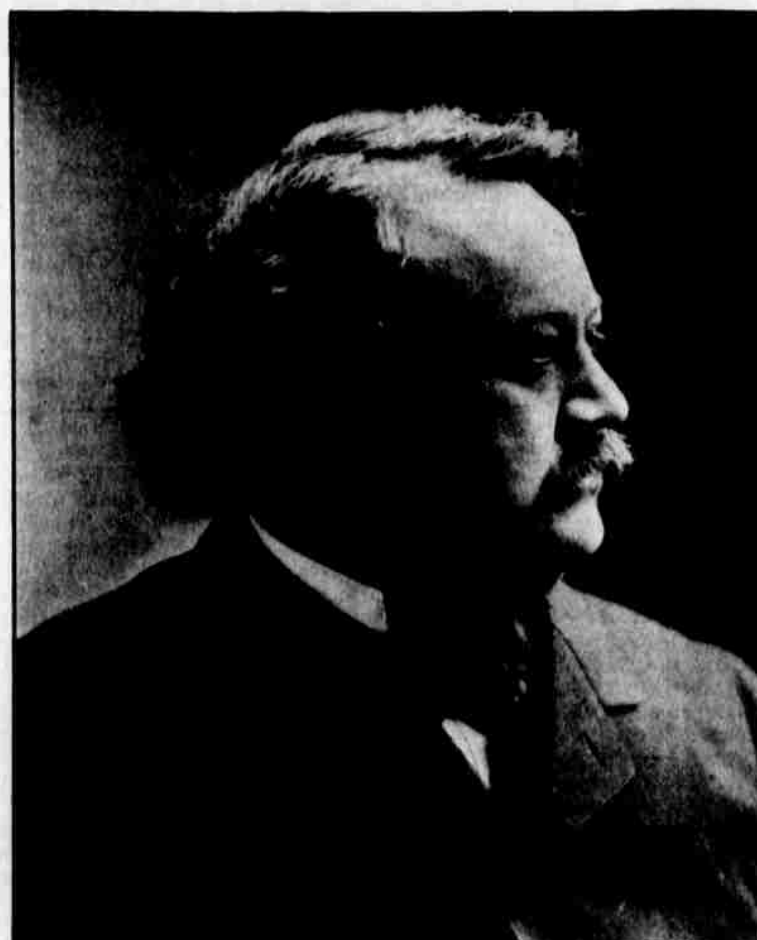
"After the city speaking campaign I will go down state for two months, and I am arranging my schedule so that I will get into every section of the state. Pamphlets and other literature of mine will be sent into every county, and from the 15th of April until the close of the primary contest there will be no lagging in my campaign. After my campaign out in the state I intend coming back to Chicago and devoting the last four weeks of the campaign to a speaking tour throughout Cook county."

William E. Mason says that he will speak in every county in the state in the senatorial campaign.

Albert J. Hopkins is being asked by thousands of friends to seek the Republican nomination for United States senator.

Frank Gates Allen of Moline, who is very popular throughout the state, having friends in nearly every county, will probably be the Progressive Candidate for United States Senator.

Alderman William J. Healy should be re-elected in the Eighteenth ward.



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MUNICIPAL NEWS

Some Items of Interest From the Public Offices About Occurrences of the Week.

The City Council on Monday night transacted the following business:

Prohibited "family," "private" and "ladies' entrance" on saloons. Referred to the committee on judiciary an amendment which would, if passed, prohibit booths, stalls, curtains in barrooms as well as back rooms of saloons.

Received the official records of aldermen's attendance at committee meetings.

Authorized the mayor to get in touch with federal authorities and urge the government to build a new post office on the West Side between the Northwestern and proposed new Union stations.

An ordinance before the Council by Alderman Long provides that all trains within the city limits must be operated by "power that will not produce smoke or noxious gases." There is also a report from the Union station subcommittee recommending an ordinance for general electrification within seven years.

The Municipal Reference Library has issued its report, prepared at the request of Mayor Harrison, summarizing the efforts to establish and operate municipal public dance halls in six of the larger cities of this country.

Mayor Harrison has submitted the report to the city council with the recommendation that municipal dance halls be opened on the North, Northwest, Southwest and South sides and in South Chicago.

Boston's dances have proved so successful that it is now planned to hold them three times a week instead of semi-weekly. Cincinnati has one dance hall, which is self-supporting, as the city receives a share of the profits from the sale of refreshments. In Cleveland the two or three dance halls run by the city near the lake side last year showed a net profit of nearly \$7,000. About 1,250,000 people patronized them.

Vote for Jacob Lindheimer in the Third ward. He will make a good Alderman.

Judge Charles A. Williams is making the excellent record on the Municipal Court bench that all his friends predicted he would make.

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